METHOD FOR SURFACE TREATMENT OF THE INTERIORS OF ENGINE CYLINDER BORES, AND CYLINDERS MADE BY SAID METHOD

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This application claims the priority of German application 198 40 117.5, filed September 3, 1998, the disclosure of which is expressly incorporated by reference herein.

The present invention relates to a method for surface treatment of the interiors of hollow bodies, especially cylinder bores as preparation for applying a thermally sprayed layer, with a portion of the material forming the interior being removed and a surface with a defined structure and/or quality being produced.

A method according to the species is known from EP 0 716 158 A1. In that patent, a method is described for producing engine blocks with coated cylinder bores in which the engine block is initially cast from a metal and then dirt residue is removed from the walls of the cast cylinder bores so that initially an annular cleaned fresh metal surface is prepared. Then a plasma-sprayed layer is deposited on this pretreated surface and this layer is then finished.

The cylinder bores are usually prepared by machining them with corundum blasting followed by grease removal. The goal is to obtain a grease-free surface with a roughness (R) value of approximately 25 to 65 µm. Roughness (R) is determined by calculating the average peak to valley height of the surface of the machined cylinder bore. The problem is that the cylinder bores must be in precise position following preparation since after casting, the position of the cast cylinder bore can differ significantly from the prescribed value. In the manufacture of engine blocks from hypoeutectic aluminum by die casting, there is the additional problem that as a result of the casting process, inhomogeneities can develop especially in the lower part

of the cylinder bores. Bubbles or pores can form in the material, caused by a shrinking process during casting (so-called shrink holes). During surface treatment and roughening, these pores or bubbles are exposed and can be further enlarged. Blasting residue and solvents or lubricant residues can remain in the open bubbles which results in poor adhesion of the applied tribological layer. Since the coating takes place at high temperatures, the solvent that remains in the open bubbles expands so that depressions and chips further worsens the adhesion of the tribological layer to the wall.

A goal of the present invention therefore is to provide a method of the type described above which provides grease-free surfaces of a certain surface quality in a method that is as simple as possible, onto which surface the thermally sprayed layers can be applied in simple fashion and with good adhesion.

The solution includes dry-cutting the interior in a method step without lubricant using a tool having a defined and/or undefined surface profile.

The term "dry cutting" means that no lubrication is used or that at most minimum lubrication with a volume flow of less than 150 ml/h is used in which the chips or the surface are considered to be dry.

Therefore, provision is made according to the invention for machining the bores when they are dry, for example by drilling, brushing, knurling, circular milling, or combinations of one or several of these methods.

The tool can have a defined surface profile so that after machining, a surface with a defined structure (9) results. Subsequent degreasing or cleaning and roughening are eliminated.

Following surface treatment, a layer can be applied immediately by thermal spraying.

Other objects, advantages and novel features of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description of the invention when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a combustion engine cylinder block, having cylinder bores of the kind to be processed according to preferred embodiments of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a schematic view depicting a dry cutting of a cylinder bore according to preferred embodiments of the present invention; and

Figure 3 is an enlarged schematic sectional view depicting the dry cutting of a cylinder bore according to preferred embodiments of the present invention, to for a predetermined surface S.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 depicts a cast internal combustion engine block 1 of the kind to be processed according to the present invention.

Engine block 1 includes a plurality of cylinder bores 2. The cylinder bores 2 are cleaned, then dry cut using a cutting tool T schematically depicted in Figures 2 and 3. The dry cutting is carried out without first applying lubricant (or by applying minimal lubricant with a flow of less than 150 ml/h (milileters per hour) to a respective cylinder bore so that the surfaces are considered as "dry").

The cutting tool T, schematically depicted in Figures 2 and 3, is comprised of cubic boron nitride, polycrystalline diamond, a coated or uncoated hard metal, or a ceramic. Steel wire with or without a coating or ceramic is used as the brush material. As the knurl, any coated or uncoated surface profiles of hard metal or MSS or ceramic can be used. A tool T with a defined surface profile for example can be a cutting tool or a tool fitted with one or more rollers, with the roller comprising a hard metal, ceramic or MSS, coated or uncoated. When a cutting tool T with a defined surface profile is used, preferably one or more cutting devices comprise cubic boron nitride, polycrystalline diamond, a coated or uncoated hard metal, or a cutting ceramic.

The hard metal can be manufactured in particular on the basis of titanium carbide or tungsten carbide. The cutting ceramic can consist especially of silicon nitride or aluminum oxide.

The cutting tool T can be an indexable insert, for example with a certain surface structure. The cutting tool T for example can also be a tool fitted with a plurality of indexable inserts such as a cutting spindle. The cutting tool T can be steel wire with or without a coating or a ceramic or a hard material with an undefined surface profile.

Therefore it is possible with the method according to the invention to prepare cylinder bores in particular with dimensional and position tolerance with certain surface quality for coating with a thermally sprayed layer.

EXAMPLE

The following are parameters of a typical example used for dry cutting the interior of the hollow body and the resulting roughness (R) of the surface of the machined hollow body:

Cutting tool:	TCMW 110208F CD10
RPM:	800 min
Feed:	30 mm/min
Surface Layer:	APS-AlSi25Ni4Fe1.2Mg1.2
Roughness (R):	1.3 µm

The foregoing disclosure has been set forth merely to illustrate the invention and is not intended to be limiting. Since modifications of the disclosed embodiments incorporating the spirit and substance of the invention may occur to persons skilled in the art, the invention should be construed to include everything within the scope of the appended claims and equivalents thereof.